

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from the ARSC Board Opposing Racism and Police Brutality

Eugene, Oregon – June 5, 2020

The recent killings and acts of police brutality against Black Americans serve as horrifying reminders that racism is not only still here, but it is systemic, affecting all aspects of our lives. The Association for Recorded Sound Collections stands in support of, and in service to, our Black members, as well as those in the community at large who face violence and oppression every single day. Today we remember George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Manuel Ellis, and countless others who have lost their lives.

ARSC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and study of sound recordings in all genres of music and speech, in all formats, and from all periods. Black voices and music are intrinsically part of the fabric of our shared recorded sound heritage; it is imperative that those in places of privilege and ability speak out in solidarity against violence and inequity faced by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color and, when possible, follow through with actions.

ARSC is committed to seek out ways to improve our own operations. We need to do the work to make us better allies and advocates for the Black members of our community of librarians, archivists, scholars, collectors, musicians, and technicians. To that end, here are a few initiatives we plan to pursue in the near future:

- Members of ARSC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee have been drafting and developing the ARSC Code of Conduct, which is now approaching its final feedback and revision stages. The adoption of such a document is long overdue and we apologize to our members for its delay.
- We will investigate new ways to introduce inclusivity into our programs, conferences, committees, and organizational culture.
- We will implement bias training for all board members and committee chairs. This training will also be available to all members who wish to participate.
- We will continue discussions and conversations around these issues and will strive to listen to and learn from one another's experiences.

We invite you all to join us in these efforts to better ourselves and ARSC. We welcome constructive conversation and look forward to working with you to prove to our community that ARSC believes that Black Lives Matter.

Further Resources:

- ARSC's Anti-Harassment Policy (to be replaced by the forthcoming ARSC Code of Conduct): <http://www.arsc-audio.org/pdf/AntiHarassmentPolicy.pdf>
- American Library Association's Keeping Up With... Microaggressions: http://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/keeping_up_with/microaggressions
- Anti-racism resources, compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker, Alyssa Klein: bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES
- Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia Anti-Racist Description Resources: https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf
- The Inclusive Historian's Handbook: <https://inclusivehistorian.com/>
- Justice in June, compiled by Autumn Gupta: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H-Vxs6jEUByXylMS2BjGH1kQ7mEuZnHpPSs1Bpaqmw0/preview?ts=5ed80bb9&pru=AAABcqP4A5w*DMiBNq9BcrcWyWNCQld8DA
- National Museum of African American History and Culture's Talking About Race web portal: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/about/news/national-museum-african-american-history-and-culture-releases-talking-about-race-web>
- We Here LLC: <https://www.wehere.space/>
- Robin DiAngelo's Why "I'm Not Racist" Is Only Half The Story: <https://youtu.be/kzLT54QjclA>
- WITNESS' Community-Based Approaches to Archives From the Black Lives Matter Movement: <https://blog.witness.org/2015/09/community-based-approaches-to-archives-from-the-black-lives-matter-movement/>

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